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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/677,341	10/03/2003	Shin Fujita	116961	8764
25944	7590	10/05/2005		
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			EXAMINER CHUNG, DAVID Y	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	
DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/677,341

Applicant(s)

FUJITA, SHIN

Examiner

David Y. Chung

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8, 9 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 14 September 2005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1 and 3 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. (U.S. 6,812,984).

As to claims 1, 3 and 11, Watanabe et al. discloses a liquid crystal display in figure 1, having a plurality of scanning lines GL, a plurality of data lines that intersect the scanning lines SL, pixels P disposed in a matrix form to correspond to the intersection of the scanning and data lines, and a thin film transistor as a switching element. Figure 11 shows an identification pattern representing identification information that identifies each of the respective scan lines. This information is formed at the periphery of the display.

Watanabe et al. does not disclose a dummy pixel area. Shirahashi et al. discloses a dummy gate line, dummy data line and dummy pixel electrodes formed on the outermost portion of the display matrix. Shirahashi et al. teaches that by forming these dummy elements, the breaking of the outermost signal lines during etching can be

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reduced. See column 14, lines 15-29. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to form a dummy pixel area to prevent the kind of defects such as signal line breakage.

As to claims 2 and 4, Shirahashi et al. discloses dummy circuit elements on both sides of the display to prevent line breakage on all sides. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide this in the device of Watanabe for the same reason. Watanabe does not disclose dividing the identification pattern to be on both sides. However, this was simply a matter of design choice. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to divide the identification pattern to be on both sides because it was a matter of design choice.

As to claim 5, figure 11 shows the identification pattern being connected to the pixel electrode via the scanning lines. Figure 11 also shows the identification pattern to be smaller than the pixel electrodes.

As to claim 6, figure 11 shows that the identification pattern is formed in the pad area such that it does not overlap with the data lines. It is inherent that the device disclosed by Watanabe contains driving circuits for driving the scanning and data lines since the device would not function otherwise. Figure 1 clearly shows the thin film transistors which function as switching elements.

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As to claims 8 and 9, the identification pattern is formed of the same material as the scanning lines, in this case Cr, Al, or Mo. See column 3, lines 1-5. These metals both shield and reflect light.

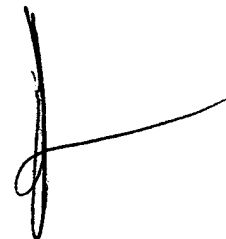
Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 7 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: none of the prior art taught or suggested forming an identification pattern on the counter substrate.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Chung whose telephone number is (571) 272-2288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Parker', with a stylized horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**KENNETH PARKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

David Chung
GAU 2871
09/30/05